

Claims

1. A sausage-producing device (1) comprising a stuffing unit (16) with a charging pipe (3) for stuffing sausage skins, and a length-dimensioning unit (5) for controlled removal of the stuffed sausage skins, **characterized in that** a clip module (8) for closing the stuffed sausage skins is arranged directly after said length-dimensioning unit (5) when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins.
2. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the charging pipe (3) has associated therewith a twist-off unit (4).
3. A device according to claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) includes a cutter.
4. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) includes a loop former.
5. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the clip module (8) is followed by a transfer unit (12).
6. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the transfer unit (12) is followed by a conveyor belt.
7. A device according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, the transfer unit (12) is followed by a suspension unit (10).
8. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the stuffing unit (16), the length-dimensioning unit (5) and the clip module (8) are connected via control lines to a control means (7) for the sausage-producing device so that the functions of the length-dimensioning unit (5) and of the clip module (8) can be synchronized.

9. A device according to claims 1, 5 and 8, **characterized in that** the transfer unit (12) as well as the conveyor belt or the suspension unit are connected to the control means for the sausage-producing device via control lines so as to synchronize the functions of these components with the functions of the stuffing unit (16), of the length-dimensioning unit (5) and of the clip module (8).

10. A method of producing sausages comprising the steps of stuffing sausage skins via a charging pipe (3) and transporting them away in a controlled manner via a length-dimensioning unit (5), **characterized in that** the stuffed sausage skins are closed by a clip module (8) directly after the length-dimensioning unit (5).

11. A method according to claim 10, **characterized in that** the sausage skins are twisted off after stuffing and before they are transported away via the length-dimensioning unit (5).

12. A method according to claim 10 or 11, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) is controlled via a control means (7) in such a way that the stuffed sausage skins are closed synchronously with the stuffing of the sausage skins.

13. A method according to one of the claims 10 to 12, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) closes the stuffed sausage skins at two juxtaposed points.

14. A method according to claim 13, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) cuts through the stuffed sausage skins between these two points.

15. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 14, **characterized in that** cutting through is effected after each n-th closure so as to obtain chains of sausages which comprise a specific number of sausages ($n \in \mathbb{N}$).

16. A method according to one of the claims 10 to 15, **characterized in that** the clip module (8) closes the stuffed sausage skins twice at the twist-off point.

17. A method according to at least one of the claims 10 to 16, **characterized in that** the stuffed sausage skins, which have been closed by the clip module (8), are advanced to a transfer unit (12).

18. A method according to at least one of the claims 11 to 17, **characterized in that**, when seen in the direction of transport, the stuffed sausage skins are transferred to a conveyor belt or a suspension unit after the transfer unit (12).

19. A method according to at least one of the claims 10 to 18, **characterized in that** the functions of the clip module (18) take place in synchronism with the functions of the length-dimensioning unit and the transfer unit.

20. A length-dimensioning unit for use in a sausage-producing device (1) according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the length-dimensioning unit (5) includes a clip module (8) which is arranged at the rear end thereof, when seen in the direction of transport of the sausages.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100